

**Claims.**

1. Refractory article for guiding or conveying a solidified material comprising a vitreous silica basis impregnated with a carbonaceous material.
- 5 2. Refractory article according to claim 1, wherein the article comprises 1 to 6 wt. % of carbonaceous material.
3. Article according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the refractory article consists of a chemically bonded vitreous silica comprising from 75 to 96 wt. % of vitreous silica, from 2 to 23 wt. % of a chemical binder and from 2 to 4 wt. % of water.
- 10 4. Article according to claim 3, wherein the chemical binder is selected among the group consisting in calcium aluminate, calcium silicate, polyalkoxysiloxanes, colloidal silica, zirconium acetate, magnesium acetate, magnesium oxide and their mixtures and preferably is calcium aluminate.
5. Article according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the refractory article is sintered and comprises  
15 at least 60 wt. %, preferably more than 90 wt. %, more preferably more than 95 wt. % and even more preferably more than 99 wt. % of amorphous silica.
6. Process for the preparation of a refractory article according to any one of claims 1 to 6,  
**characterized in that** it comprises the step of  
b) impregnating a vitreous silica basis with a carbonaceous material, preferably under heat  
20 and/or pressure.
7. Process according to claim 6, **characterized in that** the impregnation step is followed by a further step of  
c) cracking the impregnated carbonaceous material under heat, preferably under pressure.